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SOURCE Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov.CRITICISM OF SOVIET BUILDING FAIENCE INDUSTRY

Between 98 and 99 percent of the faience products manufactured in the USSR are produced by enterprises subordinate to the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR.

The enterprises have been increasing their output of these products each year. During recent years, the Lobnenskiy plant (at Lobnya near Iksha in Moscow Oblast?) increased its capacity 67 percent, the Kirov plant 50 percent, and the Tbilisi plant 400 percent.

However, neither variety of products nor quality of production is high, and there is enormous waste in production. For instance, the amount of faience wasted in 1952 was sufficient to satisfy the housing requirements of a large city. The poor quality of products is attributed to improper delivery and storage of the raw materials used in the manufacture of faience products. The building faience manufacturing plants obtain high-grade raw material (clay) but, inasmuch as the clay is hauled to the plants in open cars, it often becomes contaminated with coal, ash and cinders. Furthermore, the enterprises do not have suitable storage facilities. Quite frequently the raw material is unloaded into open areas and then put into manufacture without any preliminary working or testing.

In a majority of cases, the batch mixture is prepared according to weight, but without any chemical analysis; therefore, the composition of the mixture is not constant, although all plants have laboratories and other facilities needed to analyze the raw clay.

A great deal of waste at the Slavyansk "Kisloutoupor" Plant results from dust accumulated by the moving ventilator while the faience products are being set.

Until recently, molders at the Kirov plant were using wet rags to finish off the surface of the products. The products were cleaned after they became dry.

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The clay, kaolin, and fusing agents supplied by the Kondopoga and Chupino quarries and the gypsum supplied by the Orlovskiy Gypsum Plant have not been meeting technical specifications.

A majority of the sanitary building faience and semiporcelain manufacturing enterprises are subordinate to the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR. At an all-Union conference of workers of this branch of the construction materials industry attended by Gvozdev, Deputy Minister, the enterprises were severely criticized for their performance.

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